

# CONGRATS

## 21ST CENTURY SCHOLAR

A program of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education



I PLEDGE TO SUCCEED

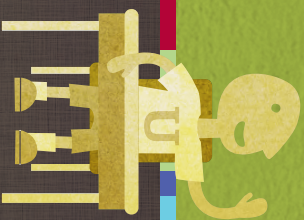




**I PLEDGE** to graduate with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma from a state-accredited Indiana high school. I will complete the Scholar Success Program that helps me stay on track for college and career success. I will achieve a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. I will not use illegal drugs or alcohol or commit a crime or delinquent act. I will apply for admission to an eligible Indiana college my senior year and apply on time for student financial aid. I aim **TO SUCCEED.**

**AS A 21ST CENTURY SCHOLAR, YOU ARE ALREADY ON THE ROAD TO COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS! HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP KEEP YOU GOING.**

- Participate in class
- Stay organized
- Keep up with your homework
- Get plenty of sleep
- Eat healthy
- Ask for help when you need it!



TRACK YOUR PROGRESS AT  
**Scholars.IN.gov**  
Record your ScholarTrack information below

SCHOLAR ID#:

USERNAME:

PASSWORD:



Dear Student,

### ***Congratulations on becoming a 21st Century Scholar!***

In middle school you may think college is a long way off, but there are many ways to set yourself up to be successful in high school, college and your future career.

Even if you don't know exactly what career you want to pursue or what type of college you want to attend, it's important to start thinking about it now and make a plan that will help you reach your goals.

That's why Indiana developed the Scholar Success Program. During high school — starting as a freshman — you will complete activities at each grade level that will help you stay on track for your education beyond high school. And remember: As a 21st Century Scholar, you have committed to the Scholar Pledge, which includes completing the Scholar Success Program in high school, as well as meeting other academic requirements and remaining drug- and crime-free.

This guide will give you an overview of the requirements and activities you must complete in high school so that you and your family know what to expect next year.

There are also many other things you can start doing now to prepare for high school and college success:

- ✓ **Work hard in school.** Develop good study habits, participate in class and earn good grades.
- ✓ **Get involved outside the classroom.** Did you know colleges look for well-rounded students who demonstrate leadership and devote time to their schools and communities? Stand out by getting involved with extracurricular activities and clubs at school and taking advantage of volunteer opportunities. It's also a good way to make friends and explore your interests.
- ✓ **Start saving for college.** It's never too early — or too late — for you and your family to start thinking about saving and paying for college. The 21st Century Scholarship covers up to four years of college tuition, but there are additional expenses — such as books and meal plans — to consider. Begin doing research to understand what college costs, what financial aid is available and what steps you will need to take to pay for expenses not covered by your scholarship.

Take control of your future by making smart choices now and staying on track for high school, college and career success.

Have a great school year!



Teresa Lubbers

Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education



# 21st CENTURY SCHOLAR PLEDGE REQUIREMENTS

As a 21st Century Scholar, you have taken the Scholar Pledge to meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Complete the Scholar Success Program, which includes activities at each grade level in high school to help you stay on track for college and career success. The chart below shows all 12 activities that you must complete by high school graduation. The following pages provide instructions and resources to help you complete this year's requirements.
- ✓ Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- ✓ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 10 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.
- ✓ Apply to an eligible Indiana college as a high school senior, and enroll in college as a full-time student within one year of high school graduation.
- ✓ Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by your college.
- ✓ Complete 30 credit hours each year you are in college to stay on track toward earning your degree on time.
- ✓ Do not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.



The **Scholar Success Program** includes activities that will help you stay on track for college and career success.

GRADE	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES		
09	Create a Graduation Plan <sup>1</sup>	Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity	Watch "Paying for College 101"
10	Take a Career Interests Assessment	Get Workplace Experience <sup>2</sup>	Estimate the Costs of College
11	Visit a College Campus	Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT or SAT)	Search for Scholarships <sup>3</sup>
12	Submit Your College Application	Watch "College Success 101"	File Your FAFSA

1. Plan should be updated annually to keep students on track for high school graduation and college admission.

2. Includes job shadowing, internship, part-time employment, interviewing a professional or related experience linked to a student's career aspirations.

3. Includes any additional scholarship opportunities beyond the 21st Century Scholarship.



# I'm a SCHOLAR

*My name is Jaylen.*

*I'm a Scholar and I'm interested in a career as an orthopedic surgeon.*

***Do you have any idea where you may want to go to college? What do you think you might want to study?***

Probably Indiana University. I am thinking about studying biology. I'm interested in a career as an orthopedic surgeon.

***How has being a Scholar helped you in high school?***

As a Scholar, I want to be the best of the best. I don't want to just be average. I want to push myself to be at the top. This program has helped me realize this.

***What's the biggest benefit of being a 21st Century Scholar?***

I like the fact that I won't have to worry about money for tuition and that I can focus on my studies and getting all the benefits college has to offer. I realize that not everyone gets this opportunity. I plan to take advantage of this.





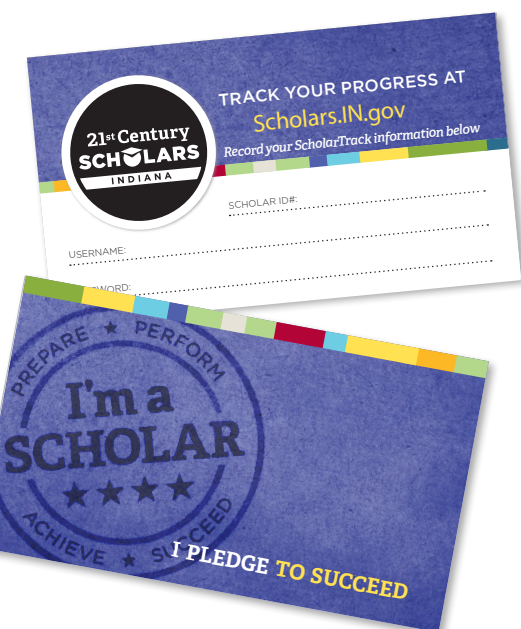
PREP  
I'm a  
SCHOLAR

My name is Zoe.

I'm a Scholar and I'm tracking  
my progress toward a career  
in performing arts.



WRITE YOUR SCHOLARTRACK  
USERNAME AND PASSWORD ON  
THE BACK OF YOUR SCHOLAR ID  
CARD AND KEEP IT WITH YOU.



## SCHOLARTRACK

During high school, tracking your progress toward earning your scholarship is simple! ScholarTrack is an online tool that will guide you through the Scholar Success Program. You can create your account now to access resources and more information that will help you prepare for what you'll need to do in high school. Create a personalized account at **Scholars.IN.gov/scholartrack** to get started.

### *Keep your contact information updated*

During high school, you'll receive information and resources to help you stay on track. Keep your mailing address, email address and phone number up to date to make sure you don't miss anything. If your contact information changes at any point, log in to your ScholarTrack account and make the necessary updates.

### *Don't have a computer?*

If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, use a computer at school, a public library or a friend's house. Or talk to your school counselor, parents or teachers for help finding a computer with Internet access.

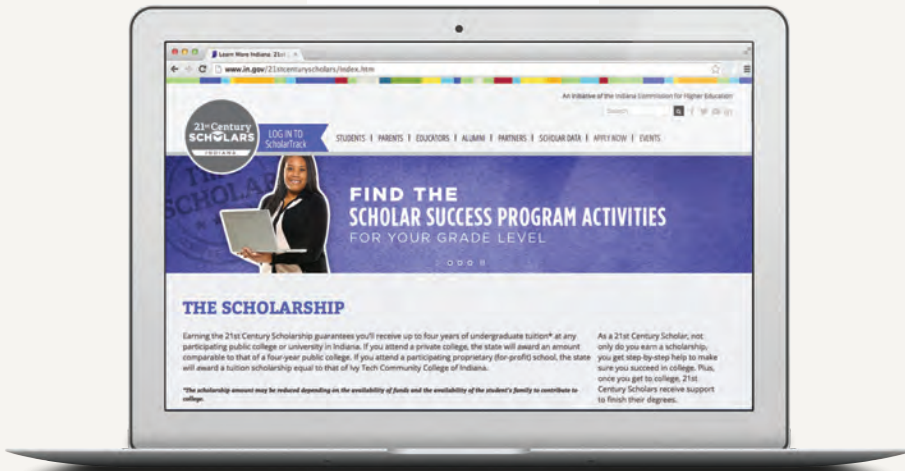


# GET STARTED

at [Scholars.IN.gov](http://Scholars.IN.gov)

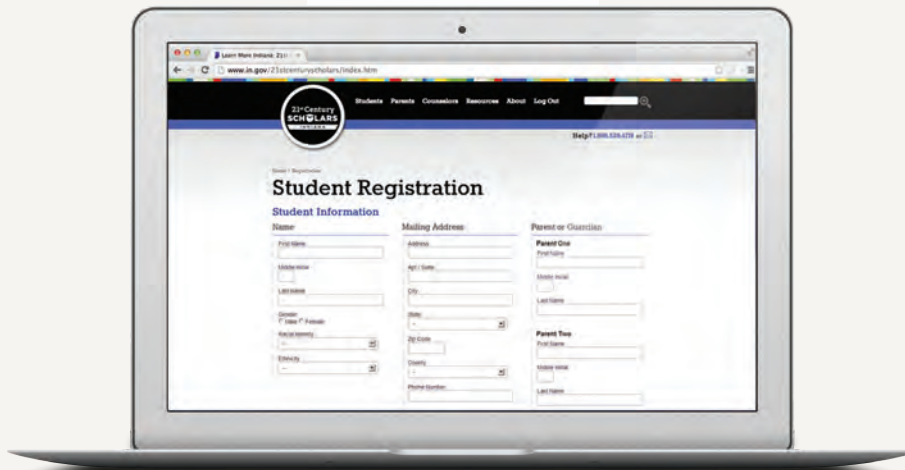
## 1 VISIT “SCHOLARTRACK”

Go to [Scholars.IN.gov](http://Scholars.IN.gov) and click “LOG IN TO ScholarTrack.” Select “New Student Account” and enter your Scholar ID and date of birth. (Follow the link below the Scholar ID field to find your ID.)



## 2 CREATE A PROFILE

Your profile will help us better understand you and your goals. Fill in the information and follow the steps to complete your profile and create a password.



## 3 START TRACKING

Use the student dashboard to track your progress as you complete the required Scholar Success Program activities at each grade level throughout high school.





## TIPS TO HELP YOU SUCCEED.

There are many things you can begin doing now to help you prepare for high school and college success. Throughout middle school and high school, make sure you:

- Sit close to the front of the classroom, whenever possible.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Stay organized (use folders, dividers and other tools).
- Keep up with class assignments and homework.
- Ask for help from teachers, counselors and parents.
- Get enough sleep.
- Eat right — make healthy food choices to keep your mind focused.

I CAN  
ANSWER THAT!



# STUDENTS

What steps must you take in your first year of high school to achieve your goals?

If you're not sure, that's okay! That's the whole point of the Scholar Success Program: to guide you every step of the way as you stay on track for college and career success.

In 9th grade, your Scholar Success Program requirements will start you off on the right foot. Here is an overview of the activities you will need to complete during your freshman year.



## CREATE YOUR GRADUATION PLAN.

Based on your college and career plans and the type of Core 40 diploma you plan to pursue, you will map out a four-year high school course plan with your school counselor.



## PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR OR SERVICE ACTIVITY.

Choose one or two activities outside of classwork to focus on during high school. These experiences prepare you for college, help you explore your career interests and introduce you to new people.



## WATCH THE "PAYING FOR COLLEGE 101" VIDEO.

Find out what it costs to go to college and how to save and manage your money. Your 21st Century Scholarship may cover up to four years of tuition, but you must plan for additional expenses.



# PARENTS

You want the best for your child, and middle school is the perfect time to start thinking about the future. Decisions that you and your Scholar make now and during high school are important.

At the beginning of each year, sit down with your Scholar and review the requirements for the upcoming school year. Think about ways that you can help them achieve their goals.

Here are some ways you can help your freshman Scholar complete the 9th-grade requirements.

## *Help your Scholar create a Graduation Plan:*

Freshman Scholars must create a high school Graduation Plan that outlines the courses, tests and related steps they should complete to put them on a clear path for graduating high school with a Core 40 diploma. Remind your Scholar to schedule a meeting with his or her school counselor early next year to create a plan.

## *Help your Scholar participate in an extracurricular or service activity:*

Scholars must participate in an extracurricular or service activity during their freshman year. Help them start looking for activities that align with their interests or career goals. They may choose to participate in a school-sponsored or a community-based activity.

## *Help your Scholar pay for college:*

Freshman Scholars must also watch a “Paying for College 101” video to learn what expenses they must start preparing for now. Help your Scholar start planning for college expenses in advance. For more tips on saving and paying for college, visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/cost](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/cost).

## TIPS TO HELP YOUR STUDENT SUCCEED.

There are many other ways you can help your child succeed in high school and prepare for college success. Starting now and throughout high school, you can do the following to help your student:

- Review classwork and homework with him or her nightly.
- Regularly review online grades and progress reports.
- Meet with teachers and counselors to discuss progress or any concerns.
- Identify a quiet place at home to study.
- Develop a daily homework schedule.
- Talk about college and career plans.

SO, HOW'S THE  
HOMEWORK  
GOING TONIGHT?

OK. BUT I AM  
REALLY STUCK  
ON THIS MATH  
PROBLEM.  
DO YOU HAVE  
A MINUTE?





## GOT QUESTIONS?



Scholars.IN.gov



Scholars@che.IN.gov



1-888-528-4719



ASK YOUR  
SCHOOL  
COUNSELOR



## RESOURCES

We know the road to college can be confusing, which is why Indiana has created this guide and many other resources to answer your questions and help you succeed in high school and prepare for college.

### ***School Counselors***

The first people you can turn to for help are your school counselors. They have been through the process before, helped many other students like you and can connect you to the assistance you need.

### ***Scholars.IN.gov***

The 21st Century Scholars website is a comprehensive resource for you and the Scholar Success Program. For more information about the program requirements discussed in this guide, check out **Scholars.IN.gov/grade-8**.

### ***Student Support Center: 1-888-528-4719***

Call the Student Support Center if you have any questions about the 21st Century Scholars program. Or you can email us at **Scholars@che.IN.gov**.

### ***Learn More Indiana***

Learn More Indiana has answers to your questions about planning, preparing and paying for college completion and career success.

Website: **LearnMoreIndiana.org**

Facebook: **Facebook.com/LearnMoreIN**

Twitter: **Twitter.com/LearnMoreIN**

### ***College Success Coalitions***

Learn More Indiana has developed a growing network of state and local organizations working to help more Hoosiers access and complete college. These organizations host local events and activities to help students and their families prepare for college.

College Success Coalition member organizations include local government, businesses, colleges, schools, local media, libraries, youth-serving organizations, service clubs, community foundations, faith-based organizations and others.

To find a College Success Coalition near you, visit **LearnMoreIndiana.org/coalitions**.



# FAQS

## ***How do I maintain the Scholar Pledge and keep my scholarship?***

To maintain eligibility for your scholarship, you must meet the following requirements:

- Complete the Scholar Success Program by high school graduation, which includes activities at each grade level in high school to help you stay on track for college.
- Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 10 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.
- Apply to an eligible Indiana college as a high school senior, and enroll in college as a full-time student within one year of high school graduation.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by your college.
- Complete 30 credit hours each year you are in college to stay on track toward earning your degree on time.
- Do not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.

## ***What should I do if I change schools or my contact information changes?***

It's important that you receive notifications and updates from the 21st Century Scholars program to make sure you're on track to complete the requirements. Update your school and contact information in your ScholarTrack account at **Scholars.IN.gov/scholartrack**. From your dashboard, click "Edit My Profile."

## ***Do I have to file the FAFSA every year in high school?***

No. You must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) during the year you graduate high school. This will be your senior year, unless you plan to graduate early.

## ***If I graduate early, can I still use the 21st Century Scholarship?***

Yes. If you plan to graduate following your junior year, you need to notify your school counselor so he/she can inform the 21st Century Scholars program of this change. You must also complete the FAFSA by March 10 of your junior year.

## ***Can I use my scholarship to pay for dual-credit classes while in high school?***

No. The scholarship is only available once you have graduated high school.

## ***If my GPA falls below 2.5 for a semester, will I lose the scholarship?***

You must achieve an overall, cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale upon graduation from high school. A cumulative GPA is the average of all your grades during all your semesters in high school. Even if your cumulative GPA falls below 2.5 some time during your high school career, you are still eligible for your scholarship as long as your GPA is at least 2.5 at the time of graduation.

## ***Can I receive the scholarship if I complete a high school equivalency exam (like a GED or TASC) or complete home school?***

No. You must graduate with a Core 40 diploma from an eligible high school recognized by the Indiana Department of Education.

## ***What happens if I don't complete my 9th-grade Scholar Success Program activities on time?***

You must verify you've completed the three grade-specific activities via ScholarTrack by June 30 of each academic year, or you will be placed on probationary status. You must complete the activities by June 30 of the following year to return to good standing, or you will be at risk of losing the 21st Century Scholarship. You must complete all of the activities by June 30 of your senior year to be eligible to receive the scholarship.



Scholars.IN.gov



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION

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